

CLAIMS:

1. For use in a video decoder comprising processing circuitry capable of receiving from a transmitting and/or storing medium a video bitstream which itself includes base layer coded video signals and enhancement layer coded video signals and decoding said bitstream for generating decoded signals corresponding either only to the base layer signals, to be then displayed alone, or to the base layer signals and the enhancement layer signals, to be then displayed together, a method of decoding said video bitstream including said base layer and enhancement layer coded video signals, comprising the steps of:
- decoding the base layer coded video signals to produce decoded base layer frames;
 - decoding the enhancement layer coded video signals to produce decoded enhancement layer frames;
 - displaying the decoded base layer frames either alone or with the decoded enhancement layer frames to form video frames;
- said method being characterized in that the displaying step itself comprises:
- a decision sub-step, for examining on the basis of a given criterion the quality of each successive base layer frame to be displayed and selecting the poor quality frames;
 - a replacement sub-step, for replacing each poor quality base layer frame by at least one of the two frames of the enhancement layer preceding and following said poor quality frame base layer frame.
2. A decoding method according to claim 1, in which each poor quality base layer frame is replaced by the temporally closest of said preceding and following frames of the enhancement layer.
3. A decoding method according to claim 1, in which said poor quality base layer frame is replaced by a frame obtained by means of an interpolation between said preceding and following frames of the enhancement layer.

4. A video decoder for decoding a video bitstream including base layer coded video signals and enhancement layer coded video signals, wherein the enhancement layer includes enhancement frames arranged in a display order, said decoder comprising:

- first decoding means for producing decoded base layer frames ;
- 5 - second decoding means for producing decoded enhancement layer frames;
- displaying means for displaying said decoded base layer and enhancement

layer frames and in which each poor quality frame of the base layer to be displayed is replaced by an frame obtained either by means of an interpolation between the two frames of the enhancement layer preceding and following said poor quality frame of the base layer or

10 by only one of these two frames.

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